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Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his careful consideration of the application. Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner's thorough search.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 17 is rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 17 has been amended to remove the qualifier slow from the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-13 and 17-18 under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,673,322 to Pepe et al. (the '322 patent). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In claim 1, Applicants recite a reverse proxy network communication scheme. The scheme includes a proxy agent located inside a protected network addressable by a least one internal network device wherein the proxy agent establishes outgoing network connections. The scheme also includes a security device through which all traffic between the protected network and external networks must travel wherein the security device permits at least outgoing connections via at least one predetermined network protocol. Finally, the scheme includes an external proxy server outside the protected network and reachable by the proxy agent via outgoing network connections through the security device, the external proxy server also being addressable by at least one external network device, thereby allowing communication between the at least one external network device and the at least one internal network device.

The Examiner should allow claim 1, as the Examiner has not shown that the '322 patent anticipates claim 1. The Examiner asserts that column 8, lines 16-25 show a security device through which all traffic between the protected network and external networks must travel. The section in question appears to address communication between a local and a

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remote proxy. However, Applicants do not see any reference to a security device such as the firewall described in Applicants' application. The Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '322 patent that shows a security device located between a proxy agent inside a protected network and a proxy server outside that network. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '322 patent that discloses a security device between a proxy agent and a proxy server, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 1 allowed.

Claims 2 and 4-8 should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed as claims 2 and 4-8 depend from claim 1.

In claim 9, Applicants recite a method of accessing an internal network device on a protected network wherein the network including a security device. The method includes storing data addressed to the internal network device in an external proxy server, maintaining a proxy agent on the protected network, wherein the proxy agent polls the external proxy server for data addressed to the internal network device, forwards to the internal network device any data on the external proxy server and addressed to the internal network device, and forwards to the external proxy server any data addressed to an external device in communication with the external proxy server.

The Examiner should allow claim 9, as the Examiner has not shown that the '322 patent anticipates claim 9. The Examiner asserts that column 8, lines 26-60 shows maintaining a proxy agent on a protected network that polls an external proxy server for data addressed to an internal network device. In the section identified by the Examiner, Applicants see no mention of a proxy agent located on a protected network polling an external proxy server. Further, Applicants do not see a description of a proxy agent polling a proxy server period. The local and remote proxies appear to communicate, but that is not the same as having one element poll the other for data. In order to sustain a rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. § 102, a single reference must disclose each and every limitation. As the Examiner has pointed to no portion of the '322 patent that discloses maintaining a proxy

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agent on a protected network that polls an external proxy server for data addressed to an internal network device, the rejection should be withdrawn and claim 9 allowed.

Claims 11-13 and 17-18 should be allowed if claim 9 is allowed as claims 11-13 and 17-18 depend from claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 3, 19-20 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '322 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,510,464 to Grantges, Jr. et al. (the '464 patent). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 3 includes all the limitations of claim 1 and additionally includes an outgoing proxy server in communication with the proxy agent and which the proxy agent uses to establish outgoing connections.

Claim 3 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of claim 3. As discussed with respect to claim 1, the Examiner has not established that the '322 patent discloses a proxy agent located on a protected network that can contact a proxy server outside the protected network. The Examiner has not pointed to a portion of the '464 patent that provides this limitation. The passage from the '464 patent cited by the Examiner appears to discuss a proxy server located outside a protected network contacting a proxy server within a protected network, which is not the same as the recited claim. Based upon these passages, combining these two patents would not appear to anticipate Applicants' invention. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of claim 3. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claim 3 is obvious in view of the combination of the '322 and '464 patents, claim 3 should be allowed.

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Claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of any of claims 19, 20, 22, and 23.

Claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 each include all the elements of claim 9. As noted above with respect to claim 9, the Examiner has not pointed to a portion of the '322 patent that discloses maintaining a proxy agent located on a protected network that polls an external proxy server. The '464 patent appears to disclose an external proxy server contacting a proxy server located within a network and not an internal proxy agent querying an external server. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of any of claims 19, 20, 22, and 23. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 are obvious in view of the combination of the '322 and '464 patents, claims 19, 20, 22, and 23 should be allowed.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '322 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,827 to Rezvani et al. (the '827 patent). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 includes all the limitations of claim 9 and further includes polling the external proxy server at regular intervals.

Claim 10 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of claim 10. As discussed with respect to claim 9, the Examiner has not established that the '322 patent discloses a proxy agent located on a protected network that can contact a proxy server outside the protected network. The passage from the '827 patent cited by the Examiner appears to discuss a service broker polling a server to

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see if data is waiting for one or more of the devices it is connected. However, the Examiner has not pointed to any mention of the service broker being located on a protected network. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of claim 10. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claim 10 is obvious in view of the combination of the '322 and '827 patents, claim 10 should be allowed.

Claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '322 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,014 to Coley et al. (the '014 patent). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 14-16 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of any of claims 14-16.

Claims 14-16 each include all the elements of claim 9. As noted above with respect to claim 9, the Examiner has not pointed to a portion of the '322 patent that discloses maintaining a proxy agent located on a protected network that polls an external proxy server. The '014 patent appears to disclose a proxy agent located inside a firewall that investigates requests received from outside the firewall. The Examiner has not pointed to a passage that discloses the internal proxy agent polling an external proxy server. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of any of claims 14-16. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claims 14-16 are obvious in view of the combination of the '322 and '014 patents, claims 14-16 should be allowed.

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '322 patent in view of International Application 00/68823 by Lawrence et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 21 should be allowed as the Examiner has failed to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. In order to sustain an obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the Examiner must show that a combination of the cited references teach or suggest all the

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limitations of the claim being rejected. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). The Examiner has failed to show that the combination of references teaches or suggests all the limitations of any of claim 21.
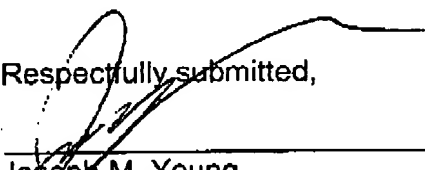
Claim 21 includes all the elements of claim 9 and further includes rewriting cookies with unique identifiers to prevent inadvertent transmission of private information to an incorrect recipient on the protected network. As noted above with respect to claim 9, the Examiner has not pointed to a portion of the '322 patent that discloses maintaining a proxy agent located on a protected network that polls an external proxy server. The Examiner has not pointed to any portion of Lawrence et al. that discloses this limitation. Therefore, the Examiner has failed to show that the combination of patents discloses all the elements of any of claims 21. Because the Examiner has failed to prove that claims 21 are obvious in view of the combination of the '322 patent and the international application to Lawrence et al., claims 14-16 should be allowed.

Conclusion

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

A telephone interview is respectfully requested at the number listed below prior to any further Office Action, i.e., if the Examiner has any remaining questions or issues to address after this paper. The undersigned will be happy to discuss any further Examiner-proposed amendments as may be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,

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